

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 17 of 1896.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th April 1896.

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Nil.	
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Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	5,000	19th April, 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	18th ditto.	
3	"Banijya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	17th ditto.	
4	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	21st ditto.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	17th ditto.	
6	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	.....	
7	"Mihij-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	2,500	18th ditto.	
8	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	.....	18th ditto.	
9	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	15th ditto.	
10	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	17th ditto.	
11	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	15th ditto.	
12	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	20th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	350		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	19th to 23rd April, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	17th, 18th, 20th, 21st and 23rd April, 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	16th, 17th and 21st to 23rd April, 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	16th April, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	20th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	5,000		
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	.....	13th April, 1896.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	310	16th April, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	330	15th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	450	16th April, 1896.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	About 250	14th April, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	550	19th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,145	17th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	826	15th April, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	17th ditto.	
URIYA.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack	160		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto	.....	
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto	.....	
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	480		
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	600		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur	1,000		
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400	13th April, 1896.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra	.....	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	195		
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	180	15th April, 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	500		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	244		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Charn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	13th April 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	2,400	19th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do.	About 440	18th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca	240		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	20th April, 1896.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700		
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE Hindi Bangavasi of the 21st April expects that a treaty will shortly be concluded between England and Russia, enabling England to strengthen her position in Egypt and Russia to wrest Constantinople from the Turks. But the treaty will not debar Russia from invading India.

An expected treaty between England and Russia.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 21st, 1896.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* of the 13th April writes as follows on recrudescence of crime with special reference to the Mymensingh province.

Recrudescence of crime in the district :—

There are altogether twenty-eight thanas and out-posts in the Mymensingh district, and although only three months of the current year have elapsed, reports of 145 cases of theft have already reached them, besides reports of seven cases of dacoity with murder, namely, two in the Nagarpur out-post, one in the Kendua thana, two in the Fulpur thana, one in the Gafargaon thana, and one in the Jamalpur thana. In one of these cases the dacoits even set fire to the house they had plundered. But not in one of these cases have the culprits been brought to justice by the police. Of the theft cases, each thana investigated on an average only $1\frac{1}{2}$ cases a month. In the Mymensingh town itself there have been twenty-six cases of theft within the same period, and only in twelve of these have the culprits been sent up for trial.

A similar state of things prevails in other districts also. This recrudescence of crime is due entirely to the inefficiency and corruption of the police, who miss no opportunity of filling their pockets by letting criminals escape, or by sending up innocent persons in their stead. The observations made by Mr. Earle in his Administration Report of the Mymensingh district for last year, regarding the corruption of the police are more or less applicable to the police of the whole province. The rule requiring the police to submit their final report on a case within seven days of the date on which a complaint is made greatly conduces to corruption, as also the practice of the judiciary to make light of charges of corruption brought against the police, out of a fear, lest their conviction should lower the prestige of the administration. In following this policy the District authorities forget that it is really an indulgent treatment of the police which serves to undermine the State and lower its prestige.

The Police Department in fact cannot be reformed as long as better pay does not induce better men to enter this service. The salaries now given to police officers are too small, considering the style in which they have to live, and are not a sufficient remuneration for the arduous work they have to perform. Inducements should be held out to educated men to enter the Department, and stringent rules should be framed for the suppression of corruption. A highly paid officer, knowing the language of the province and conversant with the manners of the people, may also be specially appointed to see that those rules are strictly obeyed. It is hoped that Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who is already so popular, will make himself still more so by reforming the police upon whose efficiency depends the safety of his subjects' lives and property.

3. The same paper says that in not one among the many dacoities by land and water, which took place in the Mymensingh district last year, have the culprits been traced. The police sent up some persons for trial

only in connection with the dacoity which was committed in the Nagarpur outpost in the Tangail subdivision. But even in that case the accused got their discharge in the absence of sufficient evidence.

The police have sent up six persons for trial under section 393 of the Penal Code for the dacoity which was lately committed in the house of one Jamiruddin Sarkar of Kumaria, within the jurisdiction of the Jamalpur police-station. The public are awaiting the result of this trial with anxiety, for the

CHARU MIHIR,
April 13th, 1896.

Dacoity cases in the Mymensingh district.

CHARU MIHIR.

prevalence of dacoity and the inability of the police to bring the offenders to justice have filled the district with alarm.

CHARU MINIR,
April 18th, 1896.

4. The same paper has the following:—

The Mymensingh police in a theft case. On the 27th March last the son of Babu Jajneswar Banerji, a clerk in the Mymensingh railway-station, aged about four or five years, had been out playing. When at dusk the boy returned home, a necklace he had on was missing. On being questioned, he said that the owner of a shop close by had enticed him into the shop by promises of sweetmeats, and had there removed the ornament. Information was at once laid at the Kotwalli police-station, and an immediate house-search was asked for. But though the boy identified the shop-keeper in a crowd of men, and gave a full description of the manner in which the necklace had been removed from his body and of the place where it was concealed, the police did not make a search for the lost article till the evening of the following day. It needs scarcely be said that the article was not found. It is hoped that the higher police authorities will send for the papers relating to this case, and make an enquiry about the cause of the delay in making the house-search.

BANGANIVASI,
April 19th, 1896.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

5. The Banganivasi of the 19th April has the following:—

Mr. Douglas, District and Sessions Judge, Dacca. Mr. Douglas, District Judge of Dacca, is a judicial officer of nineteen years' standing, and has spent the whole of his time in Bengal. He prides himself on his broken and halting Bengali, which he has acquired from the conversation of his native servants. Mr. Douglas also prides himself on his wit. He is very fond of calling witnesses *sala* and of cracking jokes at them. A few days ago he was trying a case in which one Jagat Chandra Datta was a witness. The court wanted to know what his occupation was. The witness said that he was a *naib*. "Whose *naib* are you?" asked the Judge. "I am Mr. Justice Chandramadhab Ghose's *naib*" was the answer. "Mr. Justice Ghose's *naib*," exclaimed the Judge, as if in surprise, "you must then be a very great man. The Europeans certainly fear you very much. বাপ্তৰে বাপ; অভলোকেৰ নায়েৰ! জন্মিত্ৰ চৰ্মাখৰ ঘোবেৰ নায়েৰ! সাহেব লোক ভোমাকে বড় ভয় কৰে!" Words befitting the dignity of a Judge certainly. Mr. Douglas is no doubt a model Judge.

Mr. Douglas' judicial impartiality is also very great. Criminal appeals always upset him. Whenever an appeal is made in his court against the decision of a lower court in a criminal case, Mr. Douglas makes such observations as the following:—"This is an appeal for the setting aside of a sentence which seems to be very light if the conviction is justified by facts. Instead of imprisonment for so many months, there ought to have been imprisonment for so many years." A Judge is certainly at liberty to try a case according to his own light, but it is not quite proper to express an opinion before an appeal is heard.

Mr. Douglas does not also conduct himself very courteously towards jurors. On the 1st April last he ordered a number of jurors to be present at court. After selecting five to empanel a jury, he ordered all the remaining jurors present to come again on the 6th. This was certainly giving unnecessary trouble to jurors, who were in this way put to great loss and inconvenience. If a juror fails to put in his appearance at the court of Mr. Douglas, he is at once called upon to show cause why he should not be fined one hundred rupees. The juror is not allowed to defend himself through a pleader. He must be personally present to defend his case. This is certainly adding insult to injury.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 20th, 1896.

6. The Dacca Gazette of the 20th April says that Mr. Shirres ought to have appointed some local amla to the post of Peshkar in the Dacca Criminal Court, made vacant by the temporary promotion of the permanent incumbent. Babu Sarat Chandra Ganguli, who has been brought from another district to fill the temporary vacancy, is probably the man against whom the *Tripura Prakash* wrote some time ago, and who was transferred from Noakhali

to Fenny at the instance of Mr. Agasti, when he was Magistrate of that district. If that is the man, one fails to see why Mr. Shirres has brought him over to Dacca.

As Mr. Shirres thinks that there are too many clerks in the Nazarat department, why did he not bring some one from there to the Peshkarship?

(d)—*Education.*

7. The *Sahachar* of the 15th April says that though Sir Alfred Croft is ordinarily a right-minded man, he seems to have lost all sense of right and wrong since the unfortunate Griffiths' affair. For, in every matter connected with that sad affair, he is going directly against the Syndicate. The Syndicate had appointed a committee to enquire into the complaint made by Mr. A. M. Bose that his son had been beaten by Mr. Griffiths' men outside the Senate Hall. The Committee lately submitted their report. But Sir Alfred Croft managed to hold over its consideration till the new Syndicate met. This was not just on Sir Alfred's part. The report should rather have been submitted to the Senate for consideration at its next meeting, which is shortly to be held.

SAHACHAR,
April 15th, 1896.

8. The *Samay* of the 17th April understands that the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, has ordered the Principal of the Rajshahi College to strike off the names of the students who were lately convicted of assault and of disturbing the public peace. These students will not be allowed to read in any educational institution in the country for one year. Sir Alfred Croft has also punished the whole College staff and all the students by curtailing the Puja and the summer vacation by one week each, so far as the Rajshahi College is concerned. The Rajshahi College will close both for the Puja and the summer vacation one week later than the other educational institutions. Let the guilty students be punished by all means, but why punish the innocent as well? The schools and colleges usually close for the Puja vacation only a few days before the Puja. The Rajshahi College will this year have to remain open during the Puja. This strikes one as strange.

SAMAY,
April 17th, 1896.

9. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 18th April says that Musalman candidates will have little chance of getting any of the four inspecting panditships in the Rangpur district, for which applications have been invited, if the Hindu Sub-Inspectors, under whom the Inspecting Pandits are respectively to be employed, are, as has been proposed, to chose candidates for nomination. But the fact that the district is mainly inhabited by Musalmans makes it necessary that the Inspecting Pandits should be Musalmans.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 18th, 1896.

10. The same paper says that as the Rajshahi and Midnapore District Boards are each going to appoint a Sub-Inspector of Schools, and the Rangpur District Board to appoint four Inspecting Pandits, and as the Rajshahi and Rangpur districts contain a larger Muhammadan than Hindu population, and teachers and pupils in these two districts are mostly Muhammadans, it is hoped that the Chairman of these two Boards and the Chairman of the Midnapore Board also will see that Muhammadans are appointed to the new posts. Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim, Assistant Inspector of Muhammadan education in this circle, should see that Dr. Martin's circular orders are obeyed in this instance. He will fail in his duty if he neglects to do this.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

The claims of Musalmans to some new inspecting offices under certain District Boards.

Muhammadan than Hindu population, and teachers and pupils in these two districts are mostly Muhammadans, it is hoped that the Chairman of these two Boards and the Chairman of the Midnapore Board also will see that Muhammadans are appointed to the new posts. Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim, Assistant Inspector of Muhammadan education in this circle, should see that Dr. Martin's circular orders are obeyed in this instance. He will fail in his duty if he neglects to do this.

11. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd April says that Mr. Hallward, Principal, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, lately whipped the Rajkumars of Narsinghpur and Palabhar, two Tributary States in Orissa, because they did not *salaam* him. The Rajkumars are students in the Ravenshaw Collegiate school, and the beating was done in the College compound. But Mr. Hallward should not be blamed. He should rather be thanked for teaching the Rajkumars lessons in obedience and forbearance—lessons which are sure to stand them in good stead in future,

*DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,*
April 23rd, 1896.

Whipping of two Rajkumars by the Principal of the Ravenshaw College.

when they will succeed their fathers in the *guddee* and become the bondslaves of the Political Agents. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the Rajkumars were treated like thieves. Certainly they were. But are Native Chiefs better than thieves in the eye of the Political Agents?

By the way, Mr. Hallward should go a little further and take to whipping all the students of the College. Those who are students now will become citizens afterwards, and they should be all brought up in the course of discipline and forbearance. A student means in Sanskrit a *Sishya*, i.e., one who should always be under the rod of correction. Every student should, therefore, be regularly whipped. The Lieutenant-Governor wants to see *Gurubhakti* in a student, and the Principal of the Ravenshaw College has hit upon the easiest way of teaching *Gurubhakti*. *Gurubhakti*, it is true, is a sentiment which has its seat in the heart. But if you cannot reach a student through his heart, better reach him through his body. If you cannot teach him *Gurubhakti*, teach him to dread the *guru*. Even a show of reverence is better than no reverence.

(e) — Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 18th, 1896.

12. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 13th April complains of the absence of good roads and dispensary in Sialkol, a large village in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district. The river Lauhajangha, which flows through the eastern extremity of the village, being now completely dry, the people are suffering extremely from water scarcity. They are not getting water even by begging. The District Board ought to re-excavate the two *dobas* which exist in the village, work which can be done at a very small cost.

CHARU MIHIR.

Water scarcity in Narandia in the Mymensingh district.

13. Another correspondent of the same paper writing from Narandia, in the Mymensingh district, complains of water scarcity, and doubts whether the steps that the District Board is likely to take to relieve it under Government's pressure will be sufficient for the purpose. The scarcity can be removed only by the excavation of a tank in every village. One well in every village will be mere waste of money, for Hindus will not use it in common with people of other religious creeds.

CHARU MIHIR.

Water scarcity in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

14. A correspondent of the same paper says that the water scarcity in about 150 or 200 villages in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district can be removed and the health of the villagers improved by constructing a *bund* at Nalchoba and making the stream Atai Bairan discharge itself again into the Lauhajangha river, which has become completely dry in consequence of a dereliction of the old stream. The work can be completed in one or two years at a cost of only two to three thousand rupees. The only objection against the construction of a *bund* will be urged by some Europeans who, taking advantage of the discharge of the Atai Bairan into the Bansa river, have built factories at Balla Ratanganj on the bank of the last mentioned stream. It is hoped that the District Magistrate, Mr. Harris, will visit these parts in order to see what mischief has been done by allowing the Lauhajangha to dry up. The District Board, too, should not grudge this small expenditure, which is calculated to relieve such a large area from water scarcity.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 14th, 1896.

15. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 14th April complains of water scarcity in the Burdwan district. In Kalna, Jotkubi and several other villages under the Jamalpur thana of the Burdwan district, the suffering of the people

from scarcity of water is very great. All the tanks have dried up, and the villagers are fetching drinking water from the Damodar. They also keenly feel the want of water for washing and other domestic purposes. The authorities can dig channels to connect these villages with the Eden Canal. In several villages under the Khandakhosh thana in the same district, the state of things is not more satisfactory. In Gui there is water only in one tank, and the water of that tank has become polluted, and its use has led to an outbreak of cholera. The District Board should at least dig a well in this village. In

Kushmun there are many tanks, but almost all of them have dried up. There is water only in two tanks, and a man is almost dewatering one of them for the purpose of cultivating his sugarcane field. The District Magistrate should stop this draining of water. There is great scarcity of water in most parts of the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district. Men and beasts are crying for water in Islampur, Birbegun, Nutangram, Benga, Naparha, Sapur, Mukaltosh and Nawapasha. These villages are at a distance of three or four miles from the Hooghly. There is a small quantity of water in a tank in Islampur, and it will be soon exhausted. The use of the polluted water has already led to the breaking out of cholera in several villages. The District Board should at once come to the rescue of the suffering people. There is a silted up tank, called the Mutch tank, midway between the villages of Islampur, Sapur and Birbegun. This tank can be re-excavated at a cost of about Rs. 200. The District Board should either re-excavate this tank or dig a well to save the lives of millions of people. There is great scarcity of water in the Raniganj subdivision of the Burdwan district. The re-excavation of the Saheb Bandh tank has been commenced and should be pushed on, so that it may not be too late for the people to get water. The wells on public roads, which are now the only source of water to the suffering people, are drying up. Cholera is fearfully raging and is carrying away hundreds of victims.

16. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 15th April complains that the local Municipality is not taking proper steps to stay the progress of the cholera epidemic which has broken

out in all parts of the Murshidabad district. The *pucca* and the *catcha* drains are not being properly cleansed. Disinfectants are not being largely used. Steps are not also being taken to prevent the throwing of the dead bodies of cholera patients into rivers and canals. It is said that dead bodies of cholera patients are being thrown into the Bhandardaha *beel*, while its fish are being largely sold in the market. The Municipality should at once stop the sale of such fish.

17. The *Sahachar* of the 15th April has the following:—

Cholera in Calcutta.

There can be no doubt that with the introduc-

tion of improved conservancy arrangements and filtered water, the health of Calcutta has of late years made considerable improvement. But a new evil has made its appearance in the metropolis. It is the prevalence of cholera in the cold season, the part of the year in which old Calcutta, in spite of its extremely insanitary condition, enjoyed immunity from that terrible disease. The type of cholera which prevails in the cold season causes greater mortality than that which generally makes its appearance in the hot weather. It is very probable that the defective drainage of the city is responsible for this change. In the cold season the under-ground drains are not properly flushed for want of water, and this fact has probably a great deal to do with the outbreak of the disease in its most virulent form in the cold season. Such was not the case in former years, when the old open drains had not been displaced by the present covered sewers.

Fortunately, cholera mortality in the last cold season was not high. This was perhaps due to the intense cold of the last few months. There is, however, at the present moment, a fearful outbreak of the disease in Calcutta. A large number of deaths is occurring every week in all parts of the city, and the disease is raging with a virulence that has not been witnessed for many years past. Excessive drought is doubtless one of the causes of the present epidemic. What other causes there may be at work it is for the doctors to tell. Cholera was not known in this country seventy or eighty years ago. There is no mention of this disease in Hindu Medical Works. The *bisuchika* of Hindu medicine is not cholera such as we see it. It is extremely probable that obstruction of the natural drainage of the country by railways or some other cause not known in ancient times has introduced this scourge in our country. And so long as these causes are not ascertained, so long will the true remedy for this terrible disease remain undiscovered. The last Medical Congress ought to have paid its best attention to this matter.

Nowhere in India are there any signs of rain, and no one knows how long it will be before the country is blessed with a shower. Not to speak of the mafassal, the state of things even in Calcutta will be really dreadful if the eagerly and

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 15th, 1896.

SAHACHAR,
April 15th, 1896.

anxiously expected rains are delayed much longer. The Municipality has issued a body of salutary instructions for observance by the residents of the metropolis, and it is exceedingly desirable that those instructions should be followed by those for whose benefit they are intended. But the true remedy is in the hands of God. Nothing will or can do us harm if it pleases Him to keep us alive, and nothing that science can do will be of the least avail if it should be His pleasure that we must perish. Last year it was small-pox that afflicted Calcutta: this year it is cholera. God, Thou art the one only author, as well as the preserver and destroyer of this universe. Thy will be done. Residents of Calcutta, fear not this cholera. Put your trust in God, and He will save you from this dire calamity. Be not panicstricken. Take heart. Worship *Rakshakali* in all parts of the country. That will revive your spirits and cheer you up, and fill you with courage. Follow the instructions issued by the Municipality and resign yourselves to the will of God. He will surely bless you. We thank the Municipality and publish elsewhere the sanitary rules promulgated by it.

PRATIKAR,
April 17th, 1896.

18. The *Pratikar* of the 17th April requests Maharani Swarnamayi, the Nawab Bahadur, the Rao Saheb of Lalgola, Raja Ranjit Singh Bahadur and other zamindars in the Murshidabad district to take steps to alleviate the sufferings of their raiyats arising from water scarcity. Kumar Asutosh Nath Rai has been for the last three years spending about thirty thousand rupees a year on the excavation of tanks in his zamindari. If all zamindars follow his noble example, there will be no scarcity of water throughout the province. But Babu Asutosh's manager should attend to water-supply with greater energy this year, because there are parts of the zamindari which are still without a sufficient supply.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 18th, 1896.

19. A letter signed by "the residents of village Samaspur," in the Goalundo subdivision of the Faridpur district, and published in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 18th April complains of the action of the Local Board in excavating a tank in Satbaria, which already contains many tanks, but not one in Samaspur, the residents of which are really suffering from water scarcity.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 19th, 1896.

Water scarcity in a village in the Faridpur district. 20. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 19th April says that tube-wells are very good in sandy soil, but they have proved a failure in clayey soil. In two places in Dacca town tube-wells were driven forty-five feet deep into the soil without drawing water. The following methods are suggested for the guidance of the District Board in driving tube-wells into clayey soil. First dig a well. More than six or nine feet from the bottom, place an earthen tub, so that it may cover the space below. Through an opening made in this tub drive the tube-well into the soil, and fill up the space above the tub with earth. This will keep the water in the well clear and uncontaminated.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SAHACHAR,
April 15th, 1896.

21. It is a general complaint, says the *Sahachar* of the 15th April, that accidents are more frequent on the Eastern Bengal State Railway than on the East Indian line. All lines managed by Government are, as a matter of fact, very much worse managed than lines worked by private companies. The reason of this is that while the private managements pay deference to public criticism, and, in order not to cause inconvenience to the travelling public, entertain on their staffs the best qualified men available, Government cares little for such criticism and entertains poorly paid staffs. It is true accidents on the Eastern Bengal line cannot be completely prevented till a double line is laid, but there can be no doubt that many of the accidents which now happen on that line might be avoided by the employés working with greater care and caution. If better salaries are paid, University graduates and under-graduates will gladly accept situations on Railways, and the working of the Railways would then be much more satisfactory.

The working of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

22. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 19th April suggests a few improvements in the Narayanganj-Goalundo Steamer Service. The Narayanganj-Goalundo Company should remove the inconvenience of female passengers by building separate cabins and making separate latrine arrangements for them. Intermediate class cabins should also be built for the convenience of passengers belonging to the middle classes. This the Company can do at a profit, if they only raise the fare from Rs. 1-12 to Rs. 3.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 19th, 1896.

(h)—General.
23. The *Hubbul Mateen* of the 13th April draws the attention of the Postal authorities to the complaints which it has received from its foreign subscribers about irregularity in the delivery of the paper.

A postal complaint.

HUBLUL MATEEN,
April 13th, 1896.

24. The *Darussultanat and Urdu Guide* of the 16th April says that His Excellency the Viceroy and the Chief Commissioner of Burmah should give their careful consideration to the petition which the Muhammadans of Rangoon have submitted to them against the order of the Rangoon authorities prohibiting the Musalmans residing in Road No. 29 of that town to slaughter cows in their houses during the *Bakr-id* festival. The order was issued mainly through the influence of Roy Bhagwan Dass Bugla, who had a temporary residence and a temple in that street.

Cow-slaughter in Rangoon.
It was unbearable to him that Musalmans should slaughter cows. But under his own contract with the Commissariat Department during the last Burmese war he himself had cows slaughtered without number. The authorities should not wound the feelings of the Musalmans of Rangoon for the sake of Bhagwan Dass, whose anxiety to have the slaughter of cows by Musalmans stopped is not due to any religious sentiment, but is wholly owing to his inveterate enmity for the Musalmans. Many of his acts prove this.

DARUSSULTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
April 16th, 1896.

25. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 20th April observes that Dr. Bahadurji's agitation against military doctors, with a view to deprive them of civil posts, is destined to prove a failure. The chief aim and end of the British Government at home, as well as in India, seems to be to increase the power and prestige of the army. To be always prepared for war is the underlying principle of British policy at the present time, and every step is taken by the Government to keep the army in an efficient condition and make the military element preponderate in the administration of the country. Military officers are thus found in civil posts almost in every department of the administration. There are military officers administering justice and doing magisterial and other executive work. There are military engineers in civil employ; and it is not at all strange that there should be military doctors doing purely civil work. The object of keeping such a large number of military officers in civil work is quite evident. Should there break out a war in which India may have to take a part, there will be a demand for a large number of military officers. But military officers cannot be hatched in a day, and this is the reason why the Government keeps a large number of military officers in reserve, employing them in civil work. That military officers are not always good for civil work is well known to the Government. It cannot but be well known to all sensible persons in the world. But what can the Government do? It is a matter of necessity with it to keep military officers in humour and increase their convenience in every respect. So long as the military policy of the Government remains unchanged, the position of the military officers will remain unshaken. They will in fact be pitchforked into civil work in increasing numbers, and will be allowed to trespass upon the rights and privileges of the Civilians. It is a hopeless task to displace military officers from their vantage ground.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 20th, 1896.

On all these grounds it is futile to agitate against the military doctors—to try to oust them from the civil posts which they at present occupy. The more reasonable and at the same time more feasible course is to agitate for the bettering of the condition of the civil doctors—to level them up instead of levelling their military rivals down. Let Dr. Bahadurji and his party try to increase the pay of the Assistant Surgeons and native doctors. Such a proposal is very likely to

be favourably entertained by the Government. Let not the agitators try to do the impossible.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAHACHAR,
April 15th, 1896.

26. The Sahachar of the 15th April writes as follows:—
 The press on Sir Alexander Mackenzie's remarks on budget interpellations had nothing to do with interpellations in general, many of our esteemed contemporaries have misrepresented His Honour as wishing to abolish interpellations altogether. We carefully read through the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, but could find nothing in it to warrant such an interpretation. His Honour said nothing about interpellations in general. He said that his remarks would relate only to interpellations on the budget, and that those interpellations ought to follow the lines of budget interpellations in the Supreme Council. The *Bengalee* newspaper sees no reason why budget interpellations alone in the Bengal Council should be framed on the basis of similar interpellations in the Supreme Council, when other interpellations and the replies thereto in the Bengal Council do not follow the tenor of the general interpellations, and the replies thereto in the Supreme Council. And he goes further and says that the rules and regulations of the Viceroy's Council far from being worthy of adoption are such as deserve to be abolished as soon as possible. We regret to say that we cannot quite agree in this view. The procedure of the Supreme Council in other matters may not be quite commendable, but its method of discussing the budget is one which can be profitably adopted by the Bengal Council, and the Lieutenant-Governor made this clear in his speech.

The fact is that certain newspapers have for some time, for want of themes to write upon, taken to a sharp and even abusive criticism of the measures of Government, not caring to mind that what they are doing will do more harm than good. But there ought to be a limit to everything one does, and a wise man is nothing if not moderate.

27. The Lieutenant-Governor's observations regarding interpellations on the budget gave the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 15th April cause for anxiety, but His Honour's explanation at the last meeting of the Council has reassured the public mind, and removed from it the impression that the Government was going to interfere with the interpellation right.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 15th, 1896.

The Lieutenant-Governor on budget interpellations.

BANKURA DARPAÑ,
April 16th, 1896.

How the Cooly Act should be amended.

28. The Bankura Darpan of the 16th April suggests the following amendments in the Cooly Act:—

(1) The name of a cooly should be required to be registered in the thana or sub-registry office under the jurisdiction of which his or her native village is situated.

(2) A cooly should be required to be identified by an inhabitant of his village before his name is registered.

(3) A day in every month should be fixed for the registration of coolies, so that any one who may require any information about a cooly may come in for that information on that day.

(4) No cooly should be allowed to be confined in a dépôt.

(5) If any one recruits a cooly by force, he should be condignly punished, and the dépôt to which he belongs should be closed.

PRATIKAR,
April 17th, 1896.

The Local Self-Government Act
Amendment Bill.

29. The Pratikar of the 17th April says that the new purposes to which the Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill proposes to enable the District Boards to devote portions of the funds at their disposal are certainly of a beneficial and commendable character. It is extremely desirable that works like those proposed to be entrusted to the Boards should be carried on under the supervision of the representatives of the people. But the motive of the Government in shifting the burden of these works from its own shoulders to those of the District Board is only a pecuniary one, for while imposing fresh responsibilities upon the Board, it places no additional funds at their disposal. People would have welcomed the introduction of the Bill, if Government had provided means for the carrying out of the new works by the Board. But, as it is, the Bill is looked upon by the people as a piece of jugglery meant for their deception.

BANGANIVASI,
April 19th, 1896.

30. The *Banganivasi* of the 19th April approves of the Lieutenant-Governor's observations in connection with the interpellations on the budget. The Hon'ble Members should act up to His Honour's advice. Mere

The Lieutenant-Governor on the budget interpellations.
noise can take the multitude, but it is not calculated to do any good to the country. There is no doubt that a good deal of the precious time of the Council is wasted in unnecessary interpellations. For instance, at a recent meeting of the Council interpellations on one and the same subject were made by two Hon'ble Members. What does this mean? The Hon'ble Members should take care of themselves before they venture to find fault with the Government.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

31. The *Samvad Prabhakar* of the 18th April writes as follows:—

Mr. Cotton.

In a few days Bengal will lose one of its ablest public servants. That friend of the Bengalis, the

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
April 18th, 1896.

Chief Secretary to the Local Government, will shortly leave for England, and it is believed will, on his return to this country, become the Chief Commissioner of Assam. The Bengal Civil Service may have an abler member than Mr. Cotton, but he yields to none in his sympathy with Bengalis. He has among us many whom he looks upon as his intimate friends, and his name has already become a household word with Bengalis. Thousands of educated Bengalis have read his *New India* with delight. That he is a true friend of the Bengalis must be admitted by every body; and if he had got the opportunity, he would doubtless have done them some lasting good for which their children's children would have remembered his name with gratitude.

Few Secretaries to Government have done more valuable work than has been done by Mr. Cotton as Chief Secretary to Government. That he has not received sufficient credit for this work has been due to Sir Charles Elliott.

32. The *Banganivasi* of the 19th April has the following:—

Englishmen in India—now and before India and with her Englishmen in India, have undergone a remarkable change. Look upon this picture and on that—upon India of the past and India of the present, and what a difference is there: we almost doubt whether this India is the India of old. Prosperous towns and cities have taken the place of hamlets, and palaces are seen where there were only huts. A new force is at work everywhere, and every day something new comes out. In the character of Englishman in India the change is no less visible. The Englishman of to-day is not the Englishman of yesterday. The distance between England and India has been almost annihilated, and Englishmen in India are now in closer touch with their home. Their feelings have consequently been estranged from the land they live in, and they have become quite indifferent to the interests of the children of the soil. The Suez Canal has brought England close to India, and the thoughts of Englishmen out here are constantly directed towards home. Englishmen have ceased to feel for the children of India. India is to them a milch cow, and their principle seems to be to make money as fast as they can and enjoy a fat pension at home.

BANGANIVASI,
April 19th, 1896.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 25th April 1896.

